ENERGY PRICES ON THE NATIONAL, POST LIST OF CONCERNS

A solar wall used to collect energy for heating is being constructed at a motorpool in Bldg. 8030.

Record summer heat, rising fuel prices, global warming…energy-related issues are cropping up in the news daily, increasing the demand for conservation efforts and research in to alternative forms of energy.

Fort Carson has spent about $14.1 million for electric, natural gas and water use through June of 2006 according to Directorate of Public Works records, which is an increase of $1.7 million over the same time last year mostly due to increased energy costs, not use. Since 2000, Fort Carson has reduced overall natural gas use by about 2.5 percent and decreased its total water use by nearly 45 percent despite an increase of more than 4,000 Soldiers and million square feet due to new construction. For the same period, the installation electric use went up by 15 percent due to the increases in population and facilities.

The installation has always pushed energy conservation efforts, but those efforts were stepped up with the formulation of Fort Carson sustainability goals in 2002, which included an aggressive goal to reduce energy use from outside sources by 75 percent and increase the use of renewable energy such as solar energy. Energy initiatives are yielding significant results. Water and natural gas reductions alone saved the post more than $5 million in the last five years.

As an example of the commitment to being more sustainable, Fort Carson began its second year of five-year contract to purchase 40,000 MWh/year worth of renewable energy certificates through the Western Area Power Administration. Buying the credits, which accounts for 28 percent of Fort Carson's electrical use, does not mean the installation uses the renewable energy produced. Instead, the purchase gives Fort Carson credit for supporting renewable energy production.

At approximately $1 per million watt-hours, the 40,000 MWh of certificates purchased annually, equates to approximately 2,450 hours of renewable energy produced or the annual power needs of 3,700 homes.

Several new energy initiatives are underway on post. One project is the construction of a transpired solar collector wall this summer at a motor pool in Bldg. 8030, which will preheat heating system intake air and reduce natural gas use. The project is anticipated to save an estimated $25,000 to $35,000 per year in natural gas expenses.

In summer 2005, 93 rain sensors were set up on the automated irrigation system controllers by the DPW. The rain sensors prevent the irrigation system from turning on when there is adequate rainfall. The low-cost initiative, which required only a $9,000 investment, saved an estimated 40 million gallons and $108,000 in water purchases in the first year.

Energy technologies are continually being researched to reduce energy consumption, save money and ultimately sustain the mission of Fort Carson.

For information about home energy conservation, visit the Colorado Springs Utilities website at http://www.csu.org/environment/conservation_res/energy/index.html. For more about Fort Carson energy conservation efforts, call the energy program coordinator at 526-1739.

Solar energy has long been used on Fort Carson to power things such as road crossing lights.

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"If it weren't for electricity, we'd all be watching television by candlelight."
— George Gobel

					CLEAN THE CONDENSER COILS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR 1	2
3	*Labor Day* 4	5	BUY A THERMOSTAT WITH A TIMER 6	7	INSULATE WATER HEATER AND HOT WATER PIPES 8	9
BUY COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTING 10	11	SET YOUR WATER HEATER TO 120° 12	13	ECO/BEM 1300-1400 HazMatAwareness 1400-1445 DPW (#218) 14	15	DON'T OVERDRY CLOTHES 16
17	USE COLD WATER IN CLOTHES WASHER WHEN POSSIBLE 18	EQWG 1000-1130 EPO 1300-1400 Green Bldg (#2410) 19	20	21	INSTALL STORM WINDOWS AND DOORS 22	*Autumn Begins* 23
24	MAINTAIN YOUR HOME'S WEATHER-STRIPPING 25	26	DRY CLOTHES ON A CLOTHESLINE 27	28	29	30